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A LETTER

ADDRESSED TO

CÆSAR HAWKINS, Eſq;

Serjeant Surgeon to His MAJESTY;

CONTAINING

New Thoughts and Obſervations, in the Cure of the *Venereal Diſeaſe*; the Reſult of *Experience*, in long and extenſive Practice.

WITH

A few extraordinary Caſes in *that Diſeaſe*: particularly one in a Servant, belonging to his MAJESTY'S Houſhold; deemed entirely a loſt Caſe: authenticated by the Officers of His MAJESTY'S Meuſe.

By *CHARLES HALES*,

Late Surgeon to the *Savoy Hoſpital*.

> —— *Learn'd by ſlow Experience to appeaſe;*
> *To check, and laſt to vanquiſh the Diſeaſe.*
>
> FRACAST.

LONDON:

Printed and ſold by J. DIXWELL, in *St. Martin's-lane*,
near *Charing-croſs*; alſo ſold by J. ALMON, *Piccadilly*; J. WILLIAMS, *Fleet-ſtreet*; and the Pamphlet Shops at the *Royal Exchange*.

[Price one Shilling.]

TO

Cæſar Hawkins, Eſq;

Serjeant Surgeon to His Majeſty.

SIR,

THE honourable appointments which you fill with great reputation and ability; your long ſeries of extenſive and ſucceſsful practice; your age, fortune, and polite deportment in our conſultations, remove you, in my opinion, from the leaſt ſuſpicion of partiality or prejudice: to *you* therefore, I preſume to addreſs this letter.

I doubt not, but that your candor and humanity will caſt a veil over the errors of the head or pen, ſo long as you perceive, that their chief efforts incline, only to a good and public intention. Some years ago, I publiſhed the firſt edition of a pamphlet, intitled *Salivation not neceſſary, &c.* with a view not only to my own emolument, but to inform my brethren, of the improvements I had made in the cure of the *Venereal Diſeaſe*, which, I flatter myſelf, were attended with *more eaſe* to the patient, and a *greater certainty of cure*, than were before known; conſequently the courſe of my buſineſs muſt afford great pleaſure and ſatisfaction to myſelf: which would have been heightened to my wiſhes, if my ſituation and circumſtances would have permitted my methods of cure to have been made public.

That publication, being well received, made a conſiderable addition to the reputation I had acquired, by containing the evidence I was obliged to produce, *viva voce*, in Weſtminſter Hall, of the many extraordinary cures *, which I had performed in the *Savoy* hoſpital.

Having been early taught to believe, that more authors had written themſelves out of reputation, than otherwiſe, I thought myſelf reſolved for the future not to put pen to paper for public inſpection; and particularly for two reaſons: firſt of all, becauſe there is no degree of merit, even where it evidently exiſts, exempt from its allay of error; and ſecondly, that I was too ſenſible, how much I might expoſe myſelf to critical cenſure, from a defect too common among Engliſh ſurgeons.

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* It was not only proved, but admitted, that 670 ſoldiers were perfectly cured. See my pamphlet, intitled *Salivation not neceſſary for the cure of the Venereal Diſeaſe*, &c. ſold by ALMON, in *Piccadilly*.

I have often remarked, that the Scotch ſurgeons are beſt educated, and the Engliſh beſt inſtructed in their profeſſion; but that if the former had the advantages of the latter, their ſobriety, prudence and indefatigable application to ſtudy and buſineſs, would give them greatly the preference. Neverthleſs, it muſt be granted, that the talents of men of the ſame country, in ſpite of education, differ much;

> " *One ſcience only does one genius fit ;*
> " *So vaſt is art, ſo narrow human wit*[*]."

I think in the medical art, it ſhould be rendered one *Diſeaſe* only; for ſurely the extenſive, or rather boundleſs fields of ſurgery and phyſic, exceed the moſt arduous induſtry of one or two men, to cultivate well.

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[*] Pope.

However, waving theſe digreſſive reflections, I muſt now inform you, that by the importunate requeſt of ſome great and valuable friends, I have at laſt been induced to ſet forth, in their *ſimple* but *true* ſtate, ſuch *new* thoughts and obſervations, as have occurred to me in my extenſive practice, for many years, reſpecting the *Clap*, *Gleet*, *Pox*, and *ſeveral* of their conſequent diſorders; intending, if poſſible, to remove many unjuſt prejudices, and to rectify the glaring miſtakes and falſe ideas, which, contrary to reaſon and good ſenſe, have to this time maintained their ground.

I do not write merely for applauſe, buſineſs, or wealth; it is too late in life for ſuch attempts; No. 56 ſtares in my face and points to diſſolution. Beſide, if the two former are not already acquired, I fear it will now be a fruitleſs employment to ſearch for them; and the latter ought in juſtice, to go as an attendant on the other two; although that is not always the caſe: avarice is indeed a vice, of which many hundreds of my acquaintance will acquit me, and therefore from among all my frailties and foibles, I hope that ſin will be ever excluded.

Nor do I hereby mean to detract from the character of any individual, or add to my own, at the expence of others; confiding in the opinion, that every regular ſurgeon will act upon good principles, according to the progreſs of his ſtudy and knowledge; although, *Ex quovis Ligno non ſit Mercurius:* therefore, I hope, I have ſome title to expect that a good deſign, however it may ſucceed, will not create malignant calumny. We are all ſubject to error, but if truth is not ſought, it may for ever lie in obſcurity. It has ever been my wiſh, that candor, unanimity, and a diſintereſted, mild reprehenſion might take place of abuſive rancour, malice and envy. Theſe ſentiments would prove of great utility to individuals, and to ſociety in general.

In points of my profeſſion, I have for thirty years, differed much in opinion from the general practice of other ſurgeons, relating to the *Venereal Diſeaſe*; never fixing my faith on the ſentiments or writings of any man, till I brought them to the teſt of trial and experience; but endeavouring at the ſame time to form my judgment with probity; by making allowance for the circumſtances of *time*, *caſe, habit of body, &c. &c.* and yet I muſt acknowledge, through cloſe attention and obſervation, I have diſcovered that much the greater part of authors and practitioners are very erroneous, in theory and practice.

It has been granted that ASTRUC on the *Venereal Diſeaſe*, ſtands PREMIER, for the hypothetical part of his treatiſe: he was a diſtinguiſhed ſcholar; had read almoſt every writer on the ſubject, and was able to reduce every thing he had read, into great order and method: but ſurely no judicious ſurgeon will admit of the practical parts, bearing an equal degree of merit. Whoever believes and follows him, will ſoon be convinced of his miſtake. He gained more applauſe by his writings than practice, even in PARIS, where I was his pupil, and had a fair opportunity of knowing his repute, from my old Maſter MORAND, ſurgeon to the KING, and the hoſpital of *Invalids*; as well as from other ſurgeons of eminence.

The famous Dr. TURNER was indefatigable in his practice, obſervations, and writings: I knew him well. He was eſteemed a very honeſt, conſcientious good practitioner in his time, and yet I cannot find that he added *many great* improvements to the modes of practice, which had been in vogue, an hundred years before.

It is needleſs to mention other authors, as moſt of them, worth notice, laid down nearly the ſame plan.

I am not inſenſible of the difficulty of procuring credit to *new* thoughts and *new* methods of practice, particularly in the *Venereal Diſeaſe*. It is equally difficult to diſcover, aſcertain and eſtabliſh *new* methods upon ſure and unerring principles, even in hoſpitals; and much more ſo in the confined employment of one profeſſor: nor is it to be done at all, without a daily and long ſcrutiny into a multiplicity of experiments cautiouſly made, in a great variety of caſes, ſuitable to ſuch noble purpoſes. The execution of ſuch a taſk requires alſo a great number of patients; which falls to the ſhare of few ſurgeons.

From the Year 1494, ſurgeons have not very widely diſſented from an uniformity of practice, and yet "* *It is evident* "*there have been more authors who have* "*profeſſedly treated upon this ſubject, (if we* "*except the plague and peſtilential Fever)* "*than were ever known of any other ſickneſs* "*in all ages paſt. Nor need we admire at* "*this, ſince from the Time of its firſt invaſion,*

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* Astruc, Vol. II. p. 222.

“ *no one diſeaſe has been more* FREQUENT, “ *more* AFFLICTING *and* INTRICATE, *and* “ *conſequently more deſerving of medicinal en*“*quiry.* EPIPHANIUS FERNANDUS, *even* “ *at that time, or in the year* 1620, *makes* “ *mention of fourſcore authors who had diſ*“*courſed upon this topic of Venereal Diſeaſe:* “ *Myſelf can reckon up at this time above* “ 175; *neither (I am verily perſuaded)* “ *have all of them fallen under my obſervati*“*on.*”

The uſual method for a *Clap*, from ſurgeons of the firſt eminence, to the apothecary’s ’prentice, has been nearly the ſame. “ A few grains of *Calomel* daily; “ *purging it off*, commonly ſo called, “ every third or fourth day, till they ima“gined the infection was removed; “ which might happen in four, five or ſix “ weeks, and then finiſhing with *Bals.* “ *Capiv.* &c. ſo far as to what has been

" termed, a *trifling weeping*, of which they " made little account; either adviſing the " *patient*, who was ſo in the ſtrict ſenſe " of the word, to the uſe of the cold bath, " or to leave it *to nature*, for that it would " in time vaniſh of its own accord."

It is needleſs to animadvert on ſuch practice and advice, becauſe many thouſands have experienced the *bad* conſequences.

The cure of *Gleets*, or that diſcharge of uninfectious matter, which frequently follows the *Clap*, has been, time out of mind, ineffectually attempted by loads of *balſamic*, *aſtringent* and *ſtyptic medicines*, internally, as well as by *injections*: In which caſes only, *injections* have been much truſted to.

Formerly *Gleets* were often deemed incurable, but ſince the reviv'd uſe of *Bou-*

gies, ſcarcely any *Gleet* reſiſts a cure, except in long neglected caſes, wherein many *fiſtulas* are formed, ſome of which alſo are curable; or when *Bougies* are unſkilfully managed.

Every ſtage of the *Pox*, from a ſlight *chancre* to *foul* bones, has undergone almoſt one invariable method; the *grand remede*, or the *mercurial ointment*, applyed in quantities ſufficient to *ſalivate*, or ſmaller quantities longer continued, and allayed by means and medicines promoting ſweat or ſtools. Theſe methods have indeed been ſome time paſt leſs in vogue, ſince *corroſive ſublimate* has been rendered faſhionable, both in public and private practice. The uncertain and bad ſucceſs attending this *new* mode, as well as the *old* one, is, I believe now ſufficiently known, and therefore prevents me the trouble of ſaying any thing more on that ſubject, notwithſtanding many cures have been thereby performed.

It muſt appear ſtrange to every ſpeculative man, that during more than *two Centuries and an half*, ſo little alteration or improvement has been made in the cure of diſeaſes, ſo numerous and frequent, and which chiefly in their worſt ſtages, both in rich and poor, become objects of the moſt able ſurgeons. Probably ſome reaſons may be aſſigned for this deficiency; as, the hazard of reputation by experiments, the expence of remedies, full employment in the general practice of ſurgery, or a natural diſpoſition to the more mechanical parts of the art, ſuch as *lithotomy, amputation*, &c. which although a ſtudy not more noble or meritorious, yet by being more conſpicuous, is ſometimes productive of ſpeedier preferment to an hoſpital, the ſtraighteſt and ſmootheſt road to popularity, employment, and emolument: ſuch practitioners as theſe have alſo the benefit of public applauſe, from dexterouſly *amputating* a limb, in caſe of a *foul bone* or otherwiſe; while the ſurgeon who *cures* a *foul bone* and *preſerves* the limb, muſt of neceſſity, from the nature of the diſeaſe, ſtifle the merit in profound ſecrecy; probably too with a third part of that gratuity, which the other thinks himſelf juſtly intitled to, and yet the ſkill of the latter is beyond compariſon, more to be admired, and ought to be more rewarded.

I do not however deſign to caſt any undue reflections on my brethren, for I acknowledge that many of them are ornaments to the profeſſion, having deſervedly great practice and equal ability; but it is impoſſible *to excell in every branch* of it. THAT IS ALL I CONTEND FOR.

The genius of one man, may lead more particularly to the ſtudy of one part of the art, than another; if therefore every one would be ſo ingenuous as to admit of the ſuperiority, which ſhines forth in the *peculiar* province of his brother, without envious detraction from his merit; it would promote and cement that union and friendſhip among chirurgical profeſſors in general, which I fear is now confined to about a *fifteenth part* of the whole, within the bills of mortality.

There, I fear, PARTIALITY has fixed her ſtandard; notwithſtanding an equal degree of natural and acquired abilites, requiſite to the eſtabliſhment of a good ſurgeon, may be found in a great number of their other brethren; but who have not met with a *lucky hit*, to bring them forth to the touchſtone of probation.

A *lucky hit* I term it, for I am inclined to think that the hand of a perſon of diſtinction; national, but *praiſe-worthy* attachment; ſenatorial or diſſenting intereſt; a doſe of *aurum*, or other incidental means, have raiſed more ſurgeons to public fame, and poſts of honour, than ſterling merit and ſound knowledge. I do not hereby wiſh to inſinuate, that ſuch gentlemen are deſtitute of the qualifications requiſite to their popular and valuable appointments, for I avow the contrary: But *that theſe qualifications are not the ſteps*, by which in general they mount to preferment.

Having declared my objections to the *uſual* modes of cure in the *Venereal Diſeaſe*, I ſhall now lay before you my *new* thoughts and obſervations on that ſubject. They have their foundation in *experience*; but if after a faithful relation of them, any doubts of my practice, reſulting therefrom, ſhould ariſe, my reputation ſhall ſtand or fall by *another public proof* of their validity, or the ocular conviction of any eminent ſurgeon of probity.

In regard to the improvements, which from time to time I have added to my practice, I do not flatter myſelf, with having done a *fiftieth part* of what I muſt leave undone.

Life is ſhort, art long, experience difficult †.

But if the ſmall advancement I have made, at great expence of money, labour and anxiety, towards a happier method of cure, than heretofore; and the few hints, which I ſhall give, ſhould excite an emulation in others to purſue the track, in order to inveſtigate yet *greater* diſcoveries, for the happineſs and welfare of mankind, I ſhall receive much ſatisfaction; eſpecially in my laſt hours, when I may be able to reflect that I was created for ſome good purpoſe, and that in my paſſage to the grave, I may perchance have the praiſes of many perſons, who, providentially, through my endeavours, happily ſurvive me. Now to buſineſs.

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† Hippocrates.

I believe all judicious ſurgeons agree, that the moſt difficult, doubtful, and perplexing part of the whole, in its cure, and often the moſt dangerous in its conſequences, is the *Clap*; proceeding ſometimes from the nature of the diſeaſe itſelf, and frequently from the inexperience of the ſurgeon, or the defect of due care and candor of the patient.

Nice and critical circumſtances ; many little incidents, and accidents, which happen unexpectedly and unobſerved, may defeat the expectations of the moſt able ſurgeon, whatever may be his mode of cure.

There are indiſputably, bad and different ſymptoms, in various habits and degrees of infection ; but there are other obſtacles, wholly chargeable to the miſconduct of patients : Such are improper diet, the too free uſe of ſtrong liquors, little ſleep, much exerciſe on foot, horſeback, or in a carriage, and the uſe of women.

The bad effects of high ſeaſoned food, acids, ſpirituous liquors, and even ſtrong beer, ſpeedily and frequently become evident in many caſes ; although not in thoſe *amazing inſtances* charged on *Cayenne pepper*, by a very worthy and experienced brother.

ther. Nevertheleſs it may be clearly evinced, that a few glaſſes of punch, or even the vinegar, pepper, muſtard and horſe radiſh, daily uſed with our food, will promote the diſcharge, even at the eve of a cure, and often renew it in a greater or leſs degree, after the ſurgeon has been diſcharged. Can you give credit to the aſſertion, that even a *Glaſs of wine, wine and water,* or *a little juice of lemon,* has inſtantly produced the moſt excruciating pain in the *urethra?* Such a proof there is, if the ſolemn declarations of a man of probity are to be relied on. The caſe is this.

One of the *medical* profeſſion, whom I am ſure you know; a man of underſtanding and ſound judgment in other matters, was baffled with a clap three months or longer, before he applyed to me, notwithſtanding he had taken more *mercurial* preparations, purges, &c. than might have cured twenty perſons.

The quantity and corroſive quality of the matter was beyond conception; and the *urethra* thereby rendered ſo exquiſitely inflammatory and painful, that it was with the utmoſt difficulty I could paſs, or he admit a *bougie*, although not larger or leſs pliable than a packthread; and which, even when accompliſhed, required great reſolution to retain an hour. Nevertheleſs, as it was obvious, that obſtructions in the *urethra* were the *cauſe* * *or effect* of that immoderate and painful diſcharge of matter, I adviſed him to the gradual uſe of *bougies*, and an alterative drink, but totally to omit *all* preparations of *mercury*: Whereby, in time a cure was effected.

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* My brethren may decide that point.

During his attendance, he often told me, that nothing could induce him to drink a glaſs of wine, or even wine and water, or to ſuck a little lemon-juice, for that he had experienced the immediate effect to be pains in the palms of the hands and ſoles of the feet, which with a ſudden tranſition ſeized the *urethra* ; inſomuch that, according to his own words, if it was not for ſhame, he could have rolled on the floor.

The foregoing circumſtances, ſingular and incredible as they may appear, I will at any time in confidence, as fully as poſſible prove to you. The perſon being now alive and well.

Too little ſleep prevents a due degree of perſpiration, and cauſes an unnatural heat of body, of which the *urethra* partakes, and the diſcharge increaſes.

Immoderate exerciſe not only prolongs but increaſes the diſcharge, in proportion to the increaſed velocity of the circulating fluids; and to the injury received, by the friction of the parts affected.

The *moderate* uſe of women, although prejudicial, I have ſeldom found equally ſo to the obſtacles before mentioned.

To add to the whole, the greater number of patients are guilty of neglect, both in relation to medicine and attendance, eſpecially when they are informed that the infection is removed, and experience proves it. However, *patients never err*, for whatever happens amiſs is charged to the ſurgeon's account, and ſometimes proclaimed in public to their acquaintance, without regard to common honeſty, truth or juſtice. I remember your obſervation, when we were both employed in the cure of a perſon of diſtinction; that if a ſurgeon cured *nineteen claps* well in one perſon, and the *twentieth*, by any accident, was not attended with equal ſucceſs, the merit of the others was totally obliterated.

Notwithſtanding all the diſadvantages, to which the ſurgeon and patient are in general ſubject, there are ſome *very* PARTICULAR exceptions.

I have cured one gentleman of many *claps* in ſeven years. He ſeldom goes to bed before two or three in the morning, after drinking one or two bottles of Claret, or other wine; yet it is rare that a *clap* requires a fortnight's attention: Indeed he is conſtant in his viſits, ſo long as they are neceſſary.

Another gentleman, whoſe occupation conſiſts in daily riding on horſeback, many miles, and dancing, has ſeveral times obtained a cure; ſooner than many others, with the greateſt care and regularity. But theſe are not examples, ſufficient to induce others to the ſame practice.

When a patient applies to a ſurgeon, for the cure of a *clap*, I think it behoves the latter to enquire minutely into the REALITY of the diſeaſe, and the *time* of its appearance; whether it be *ſimple* or *compound*, of *long* or *ſhort* duration: Circumſtances which make a material difference in the prognoſtic, and cure, and on which the ſurgeon's credit alſo much depends.——I ſay *ſimple* or *compound*, not in that ſenſe which has been commonly adopted; for, however ſingular I may appear, I call that clap *ſimple*, which is contracted from a woman having only a clap, but *compound*, when received from a woman having *alſo an old or a recent* pox.

Ignorance of the time when a *clap* commences, may deceive the ſurgeon, and totally fruſtrate the cure, becauſe it may be a *recent* gleet, of two or three months duration only, which has eluded the art of another ſurgeon, although he may have removed the infection; or it may be a *recent* clap, attended with an *old* gleet: Caſes not always confeſſed or voluntarily made clear, leſt the patient ſhould be ſlighted in the firſt caſe, for having preferred another, and in the ſecond, that he may take the chance of being cured of both, at the ſame eaſy expence.

It is well known that *my* methods of cure in the *ſimple* clap, are by various *injections*, and *alterative mercurial pills*; adapted to caſes and conſtitutions: And in *this* practice I think myſelf fully juſtified.

Many years I purſued the *uſual* forms, but, I ſolemnly declare, not with that ſatisfaction to myſelf, or eaſe, ſafety, and expedition to my patients, which I have ſince experienced: I now meet with fewer inconveniences, and leſs troubleſome ſymptoms; which gentlemen who have been under my care know experimentally; and will teſtify, that they have ſuffered more by *one* clap formerly, than they do now by TEN. I do not *truly* know, that any thing *more than injection* is abſolutely neceſſary, except due care and regularity, having ſafely performed many cures by *that alone*; for ſome perſons have a great averſion to *pills*, and in gouty and rheumatic habits of body, I have been put to the neceſſity of omitting them, being fully convinced by a variety of examples, that a very ſmall quantity of any *mercurial* preparation, has really brought on the *gout* and *rheumatiſm* in ſuch perſons, as have been before afflicted with thoſe diſeaſes.

I took the hint of curing by *injection* thirty-five years ago. Mr. *Green*, a ſurgeon of *Lemon-ſtreet*, *Goodman's Fields*, was, I believe at that time, the *only* man who attempted that practice; which raiſed much clamour, many objections and prejudices againſt him: He was adjudged moſt aſſuredly to *pox all* his patients, and yet not a *ſingle* inſtance of injury being done, or failure of a ſafe and good cure, could be produced. He had many experienced advocates, made a rapid progreſs, and, if death had not intervened, his reſolution, good character and ſucceſs, would probably have diſpelled the miſt, that obſcured the ſight of many, if not all the ſurgeons, cotemporary with him; notwithſtanding one diſadvantage, to which he was rendered continually liable: His patients, who felt little more of the diſeaſe, than the *diſcharge*, would not endure a reſtraint from their uſual recreations, which, by rendering their cure much more tedious, often produced a *gleet*, that might not otherwiſe have happened, and reflected an odium on his practice, which gave the ſurgeons an opportunity of detracting from his merit; while their own patients, who had been debarred from all ſuch exceſſes, by *gripings*, *purgings*, and a ſtrict injunction to live according to rule, two or three months, ſuffered ten times more in their health, and excluſive of a *worſe gleet*, rendered incurable for life: For then *bougies* were not in uſe.

It is abſurd as well as inhuman, to condemn a man ſolely for the ſake of oppoſition and envy, or to judge unfavourably of his abilities, *in ſpecuuation*, becauſe we are not ſo happy to arrive at his degree of ſkill, or if ſo, have not ſpirit ſufficient to carry it into execution.

After the death of Mr. *Green*, I heard no more of *injections*. I was too young to engage in novel practice, and too weak to encounter the difficulties, which might attend ſuch an hazardous enterprize. We had no *injections* in common uſe, but thoſe prepared with *troch. alb. rhaſ.* and *lap. medicamentos*: To which the famous Dr. *Turner* and others, were fearful of truſting, till they were well aſſured that the *infection* was removed in the uſual manner.

This ſhews that the ſurgeons were ignorant of *ſafe* and *proper injections*, and were likely to remain ſo; for notwithſtanding venereal complaints were numerous and common, yet when divided among *phyſicians*, *ſurgeons*, *apothecaries*, *chemiſts*, and *quacks*; a few only fell to the lot of a private ſurgeon. The principal and prime part of the buſineſs being engroſſed by a few ſurgeons of popular character; who made ſo good an account of houſes fitted up for the reception and ſalivation of their wealthy and noble patients, that a deviation from the *old* practice, however laudable, might cauſe a reduction of their gains, which were very alluring, as they were exceſſive. Trifling caſes, as *ſimple* claps, were therefore little worthy their attention.

As to myſelf, length of time and *occaſional* experiments, gradually opened to my view ſufficient incitement to the uſe of *injections*: The taſk was great, my fears and apprehenſions many, and my patients few; but as I proceeded with great caution and an anxious deſire of ſucceſs, if poſſible, I happily explored ſufficient proofs of the rectitude of my practice: Which, with the knowledge I had acquired, of curing *poxes* without *ſalivation*, encouraged me to engage in the cure of the FIRST REGIMENT OF FOOT GUARDS *, wherein my ſucceſs has been *legally* confirmed.

Some objections have been made againſt the uſe of *injections* in general, without knowing or admitting their various compoſitions. It has been alledged;

1ſt. *That they lock up the infectious matter.*

2dly. *That the patient becomes poxed thereby.*

3dly. *That ſwelled teſticles are often the conſequences.*

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* By deſire of the right honourable field marſhal, Earl LIGONIER; and General CARR.

4thly. *That they cauſe ſtrictures, caruncles, &c. in the urethra.*

It is not to be expected, that I ſhould account for *all* ſorts of injections. Probably much miſchief may have enſued from the uſe of many of them; but I can faithfully anſwer for *my own*, and I take this opportunity to aſſure you in the moſt ſolemn manner, that I have never diſcovered an inſtance of a *pox* or *pocky ſymptom*, cauſed by *my* injections, even among the ſoldiers, moſt of whom were the moſt irregular ſet of patients that a ſurgeon could meet with.

I am under no temptation to teſtify a falſity, as the cure of *claps* is a matter indifferent to me; and furthermore I ſcorn to deceive you or any man upon earth. I candidly confeſs, that formerly *ſome* of my injections cauſed much pain, and that was the only inconvenience that attended the uſe of them; for which reaſon I omitted them, and uſed a milder ſort.

This replies to the two firſt objections.

In regard to the third. If *ſwelled teſticles* never occured, but to ſuch patients as were treated with *injections*, there might be ſolid foundation for that aſſertion; but ſo long as it will appear evident, that even among judicious ſurgeons, patients are not more exempt from thoſe accidents, under *all* methods of cure, wherein *injections* have had no place; that objection drops of itſelf.

The 4th is alſo eaſily refuted. Many proofs have convinced me that *claps* are leſs liable to ſucceeding *ſtrictures*, *caruncles*, *&c.* from the uſe of *proper injections* than without them. Beſide, mark the *abſurd contraſt!* even granting that *injections* were compoſed of *aſtringent* and *ſtyptic* medicines, *can they cauſe and cure the ſame diſeaſe?* for the beſt authors and practitioners admit of the free uſe of them, immediately after the *infection* is run off, if the remaining diſcharge will not yield to *balſamics* and *aſtringents* internally.

Monſieur *Daran* has publiſhed a long, and accurate hiſtory of caſes and cures of that ſort, which happened abroad. I ſhould be glad to know the cauſes aſſigned for that immenſe number of alarming and amazing inſtances of *gleets*, *caruncles*, *carnoſities*, *excreſcences*, *ſtrictures*, *fiſtulas*, &c. THEY USE NO INJECTIONS THERE.

My obſervations have induced me to ſuſpect, that thoſe dire diſorders often proceed from a long continued diſcharge of matter*, the corroſive quality of it, varying according to the degrees of infection, and different habits of body.

The real ſtate of the matter will, I believe, at length prove, that if twenty ſurgeons ſhould have each twenty patients, and as many different modes of treatment, each ſurgeon would find *ſome* caſes end in *gleets*, *caruncles*, &c. in defiance to the greateſt *ſagacity* and circumſpection: Admitting too, that they were all confined to their chambers.

I muſt here mention that *injections* are ſo far from cauſing *gleets*, that I have cured ſome *recent claps*, attended with *old gleets* entirely by *injections*.

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[*] If the cure be ſlubbered over, or long delayed, *caruncles* ariſe in the *urethra*, and in the progreſs of time, a *carnoſity*, &c. WISEMAN.

I believe you do not forget a bad caſe, wherein *no injection* had been uſed, and yet the patient ſuffered moſt of the inconveniences charged to that account. It was this.

A gentleman of fortune applied to me in great agony, with a total ſuppreſſion of urine; after I had relieved him, he informed me, that he had been under the care of a ſurgeon three months for a *clap*, and enveighed bitterly againſt the treatment he had undergone, ſaying, he had thereby a ſwelling brought on near the *anus*. On examination I perceived an abſceſs forming in *perineo*. The neceſſity of haſtening the ſuppuration, and the probability of his urine paſſing that way, after an inciſion made for the diſcharge of matter, induced me to propoſe you in conſultation, in order to juſtify the propriety of my proceedings, and to parry the thruſt which he might unjuſtly make at me, as well as my brother ſurgeon.

In your preſence I laid open the abſceſs, and afterwards at the firſt diſcharge of urine, ſome part of it according to our prediction, paſſed that way.

The introduction of a ſmall *bougie* manifeſted an obſtruction in the *urethra*, and on that account, the continual uſe of *bougies* was adviſed, till a perfect cure was compleated, which came to paſs in three months; and to this time he remains perfectly well.

I have at this time under my care a ſurgeon, afflicted with *three fiſtulas*, through which ſome of the urine and alſo ſemen were diſcharged; one at the point of the left buttock, and two in *perineo*, the conſequences of a *clap* and *gleet* of ſome months duration, which he had altogether treated, without *injection*. He is nearly cured, contrary to my expectation, becauſe his profeſſion could not admit of confinement, but obliged him to ride on horſe-back, more or leſs almoſt every day.

I could give many inſtances of ſuch caſes.

In fine, if we may give credit to the written authorities of paſt ages, *caruncles*, &c. bear nearly the ſame *date* as *claps*. Whether we take *it* from WISEMAN, ſurgeon to KING CHARLES 2d; THEODORE TURQUET DE MAYERNE, of *Geneva*, Phyſician to KING JAMES 1ſt. QUEEN ANNE, and KING CHARLES 1ſt; FRANCIS RACHINE, Phyſician of *Montpelier*, 1620.

1620. or from JOHN ARDEN, * Eſq; one of the ſurgeons to KING RICHARD 2d, and likewiſe KING HENRY 4th, about the years 1390, 1400,

COMPOUND CLAPS I treat in another manner. By way of precaution, I adminiſter the ſame medicines, as in a *confirmed pox*; and alſo uſe an *injection*, becauſe I am well ſatisfied, that if I did not as much as poſſible prevent the corroſive

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* Mr. BECKET, a ſurgeon, in a letter publiſhed in the philoſophical tranſactions 1720, ſays, in his ſearch after the original of this diſtemper, that ARDEN in a manuſcript curiouſly written on vellum, recites the ſymptoms, *phimoſis*, *paraphimoſis*, and *caruncles*, as attendants on the ſickneſs of *brenning*, or certain inward heat, with excoriation of the *urethra* ; ſo defined in thoſe days, but now called the *clap* : And accordingly directs a *lenient injection* of woman's milk with a little *oil of violets* ; alſo an *almond milk* for the like purpoſe. To theſe ſmooth, oily, (*not aſtringent*) injections, relaxing the parts too much, BECKET attributes the cauſe of *caruncles*.

and

and virulent matter lying long in the *urethra,* the blood and juices would become infected, before any internal remedies might prevail. For that reaſon, I verily believe, I have not had under my care a twentieth part of the *poxes,* which would otherwiſe have happened.

The queſtion may be; how are *compound claps* diſtinguiſhed? I confeſs it is a nice point, which requires quick diſcernment, as well as much practice. Sometimes indeed the ſymptoms in general appear out of proportion, in a higher degree; particularly the quantity and colour of the diſcharged matter, which manifeſt the greateſt virulence.

When ſuch caſes happen, I am generally right in my conjecture, although to remove my doubts, I intreat my patients to ſearch out, if poſſible, the ſuſpected *dulcinea*, and either by money or intreaty, to extort the truth; and when that has been obtained, I have not found myſelf miſtaken above *once* in ten caſes.

Surgeons therefore ought to keep this matter in view, for whatever may be the method of cure, if the caſe is treated as a *ſimple clap*, a pox may enſue, and bring diſgrace to a ſurgeon of the firſt character.

I have had many patients from ſurgeons, exclaiming vehemently againſt their bad treatment *for poxing them*; by ſuddenly ſtopping a two months running of yellow matter, with electuaries, &c. but have always rectified their miſapprehenſions by remonſtrance, or reference to the perſons of whom the diſeaſes were contracted; the means through which I have ſometimes acquired the appellation of a good prophet, and wiped off the ſtain from my brother-ſurgeons.

Women in general are ſooner cured of claps than men by *injection*; for although they endure the ſame degree of virulence, yet thoſe diſeaſes in the latter are rendered more obſtinate, by frequent erections, nocturnal emiſſions, and the more immediate effect of the urinous ſalts. Circumſtances which I omitted to mention before.

I now come to the dangerous conſequents of claps, proceeding from that uninfectious, continued diſcharge of yellow matter, commonly known by the name of *gleet*, which by neglect, ſooner or later, whatever may be the conjunct cauſe, moſt commonly excites a heat and difficulty in the diſcharge of the *ſemen* as well as *urine*, the ſtream of the latter being alſo gradually diminiſhed, by a contraction of, or an obſtruction in the *urethra*, till in the end, a *ſtrangury*, or *total* *ſuppreſſion* of urine ſupervenes, often productive of *abſceſſes* and *fiſtulas*, in *pene*, *perineo*, *ſcroto* and *buttocks*. DIRE DISORDERS! often worſe than the ſtone or gout, or even death itſelf; therefore may juſtly be ranked among the *Opprobria Chirurgorum*, notwithſtanding a cure may be commonly obtained by a ſkilful application of *bougies*.

That we are now poſſeſſed of *one* remedy is moſt certainly a great bleſſing, but even the remedy itſelf is commonly ſo tedious, irkſome, and difficult to be complied with, that many perſons, (I dare aver, ſome hundreds within the bills of mortality) prefer the preſent inconveniences of a *very bad* gleet, and riſque the event of its conſequences, rather than ſubmit to the uſe of *bougies*; whence, among the multitude, many perſons become Victims to their ill-tim'd reſolutions.

It is much to be lamented, that no other remedy for the cure of *gleets* in general, previous to the invaſion of thoſe tremendous conſequent ſymptoms, has yet been invented: poſſibly it may exiſt, and in time be brought to light, through the ſtudy and application of ſome diligent perſon. Such an event would ſignalize the ingenuity of the inventor, as well as fill his coffers, and the deſerved praiſes of the preſent as well as ſucceeding generations would tranſmit his fame to the lateſt poſterity.

For my own part, I would ſuſtain any poſſible labour of body or mind to explore ſo valuable an acquiſition; notwithſtanding there would be little probability of my enjoying more, than the pleaſing reflection of having contributed to the eaſe and happineſs of my fellow creatures.

I have already made ſome attempts to that laudable purpoſe; ſome of which have ſucceeded to my ſanguine expectation, as *one to four*, but others have defeated the ſame means, and forced me to the *dernier reſſort*, *bougies*. Nevertheleſs, I purpoſe to perſiſt in that work, in order to make as great a progreſs, as my health and life will admit.

If I ſhould arrive at the ſatisfaction of greater ſucceſs, in any manner worthy your notice, I ſhall chearfully ſubmit the hiſtory of ſuch caſes to your diſcerning eye.

In relation to *gleets*, I believe, many miſtakes are committed. It is not uncommon to meet with perſons, who have firſt attended ſurgeons, one, two or three months with a *clap*, and having then a diffidence of their ſkill, apply to others not more ſkilful; for on perceiving the linen much ſtained with a *yellow* running, they pronounce the *infection* is not removed, and therefore put them under a ſecond courſe of *mercurials*, *purging*, &c. which, if they knew well how to diſtinguiſh a *gleet* from a *clap*, they would moſt certainly have avoided.

Now, for the ſake of ſuch ſurgeons, who alſo are apt to judge that the infection remains ſo long as the linen is ting'd with *yellow* colour, I hereby aſſure them of a truth, that neither the quality or quantity of the diſcharge in appearance, is a *ſure* diagnoſtic of a *clap*.

Very many *gleets* retain a *deep* yellow colour, and often run as much or more than the greater part of *claps*, without containing the leaſt infection: nevertheleſs, there is a degree of acrimony, ſufficient to produce an inflammatory redneſs of the *glans,* and heat of urine; very ſimilar to the effects of an infectious virulence.

Many patients have applied to me whoſe *gleets* have commenced before marriage, but who have not required my aſſiſtance till after the expiration of ſome years: They had often been alarmed with the above recited ſymptoms, after a day's riding, or a chearful glaſs, notwithſtanding their wives and children remained in perfect health. A clear proof of uninfectious matter.

A ſwelled teſticle is the common conſequence of a *clap*, and ſometimes an attendant on a *gleet,* eſpecially during the uſe of *bougies,* if they give *much* pain.

Several cauſes have been aſſigned for that accident. Some ſurgeons ſay, that it proceeds from a cold, attended with a

ſlight

ſlight fever, which ſtopping the diſcharge, fixes it uſually in that gland. Others are of opinion that as ſoon as the teſticle is ſwelled, the patient is poxed, particularly, if they diſcover that *injections* have been applied; ſo great is their prejudice or ignorance: and yet, as I have before ſaid, the *compoſition* of the injections, whether innocent or otherwiſe, is totally unknown to them.

Other cauſes are alſo aſſigned by authors; but to ſet the matter in its true light, as far as I am capable, I would adviſe ſurgeons to inſpect narrowly into ſuch caſes, and then I believe they will be convinced that a ſuppreſſion of the running is not the *cauſe*, but *effect* of a ſwelled teſticle; for during a *full* diſcharge of matter, pain firſt ſeizes the teſticle, and within twenty-four hours the tumour commonly appears, and then the running ceaſes either wholly or in part; the ſame effects are alſo produced frequently, during the uſe of *bougies*, when there is a very copious diſcharge, without the leaſt colour of reaſon for a ſuppoſed infection.

From a ſuppoſition of *pocky* matter being lodged in the teſticles, it has been a common practice, after bleeding, to give *calomel* and *purges*, and to apply alone or in cataplaſms, *mercurial ointment*; the readieſt means of continuing the fever, and either cauſing a *ſcirrhus* or *impoſtumation* of thoſe glands; whereas, if they had taken away eight or ten ounces of blood, fomented with milk, poulticed with bread, milk and oil, applied a bag truſs, and in the mean time, adminiſtered a *ſudorific narcotic* doſe, three times in twenty-four hours, during three or four days, they would moſt commonly have vanquiſhed the fever in that time; the pain would have ceaſed gradually and the tumour ſoon after ſubſided without any conſequent ſymptom of *venereal* matter remaining in the blood. *Salts* and *manna,* might occaſionally be adviſed.

I have known many inſtances of the running being ſtopped, while it was *virulent,* from one, to three or four weeks, by an intenſe fever, without any other *venereal* ſymptom happening thereupon; which time has confirmed, and therefore demonſtrates that when the teſticles are ſwelled, no *pocky* matter is lodged there, and that during the abſence of the running, the blood does not become contaminated.

Phimoſis is a common, and, if ill-treated, alſo dangerous ſymptom. It more frequently attends perſons, who have naturally the *preputium* long and difficult to be drawn back; and is often cauſed by the corroſive matter of a *clap* lodging between that and the *glans*, as well as by *chancres*, The practice of ſome ſurgeons has been, to *ſlit* the *preputium*, ſo far as to expoſe the *glans* entirely to view; and of others the application of *mercurial* ointment.

I have never more than twice been urged to the painful neceſſity of the former; and the latter I do not approve of. *Emollient* fomentations and cataplaſms, and an *injection*, totally void of *mercury*, have ever anſwered my purpoſe, and ſpeedily too. A threatning gangrene and large warts, are, I think, the *only* caſes wherein dividing the *preputium* can be fairly juſtified.

Venereal warts on the *glans penis*, and on the inſide of the *preputium* are a diſorder more troubleſome and diſagreeable than dangerous: notwithſtanding ſome ſurgeons have imagined that from them the blood might be contaminated, and others that they proceed from venereal matter already exiſting in the blood; for which reaſons, they have *ſalivated* their patients; but to their great diſappointment the *warts* have remained in *ſtatu quo*, and the conſtitution has not been mended.

To rectify in future thoſe falſe ideas, if they will only employ the *ſciſſars*, where they can be admitted; and where not, make uſe of a *mild* cauſtic; the patient will be cured without any other means, and ſucceſs prove that my advice is right.

They will ſometimes return, and the ſame means muſt be repeated, till they are totally eradicated. I am inclined to conclude, that they may be communicated from one to another, by perſons who have no other *venereal* diſorder.

It is well known that I cure *poxes*, from the ſlighteſt *chancre* to *foul bones*, without *ſalivation*, *mercurial ointment* *, or confinement, even in winter; in an eaſy, pleaſant and ſure manner, admitting my patients to follow their buſineſs and amuſements within moderate reſtrictions.

The certainty of my method having been repeatedly confirmed, I ſhall add only a few very extraordinary caſes to this letter, in order to illuſtrate what I have before done.

There are many perſons, who were never, or at leaſt ſlightly, affected with one ſymptom of this diſeaſe, yet in their own phraſe, are *rotting gradually with a dry pox*; running to and fro, from one ſurgeon to another, highly diſſatisfied with thoſe who will not attentively liſten to their tedious tales, implicitly believe them, and are too honeſt to adminiſter a *farrago* of *unneceſſary* medicines; which, if done, would make no alteration in their *imaginary* evils: They pay their money with diſcontent to perſons who undertake their cure, for not having ſucceeded to their wiſhes, and apply to others; whether *regular* ſurgeons or otherwiſe, it matters not; till at length a *real* diſeaſe of the body takes place, and puts an end to their ſorrows.

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* Some perſons yet imagine that I adminiſter corroſive ſublimate of mercury, and others have avowed that I do ſo; therefore I hereby ſolemnly diſavow that practice.

Such viſionary diſtreſſes may probably take their riſe from ſome doubtful matters. *Excoriations* or *eroſions* often appear on the inſide of the *preputium* near the crown of the *glans*; ſometimes occaſioned ed by *venereal* matter recently contracted, and at other times from heated and acrid urine, mixed with the dried *mucus* and lodging in that part, eſpecially if the cuticle has been before eroded; for then it is ſooneſt hurt, and not ſeldom inclines the ſurgeon as well as the patient, injudiciouſly to make a ſerious matter of it, and to pronounce that the blood is tainted with the *venereal* virus; at leaſt that the cure of thoſe former *eroſions* was not duly performed. From thence anxiety and perplexing revolutions of thought become gradually rooted, and wear out a life, to which death is preferable. Some doubts alſo of that ſort are frequently formed, from the appearance of ſmall pimples, the effect only of *impure* embraces, with women at an *improper* time.

To diſcover the fallacy of thoſe ſuggeſtions, I adviſe the patient to waſh the ſuſpected part night and morning with warm *water* only; becauſe if his complaints are immaterial, *that only* is ſufficient; but if otherwiſe, I ſtand juſtified in taking other meaſures for a cure.

When an *hardneſs* remains, after the *ſuperficial* cure of a *chancre*, allowing for the *cicatrix*, the act of coition will renew the ſoreneſs of the part, and often the ſuppuration; therefore without due and ſpeedy precaution in the adminiſtration of proper medicines, the caſe may end in a *confirmed* pox.

A gentleman, an utter ſtranger to me, four years ago, but now my intimate acquaintance and friend, near fifty years old, in the full ſtrength of body, as well as underſtanding in other affairs of life, was ſo deeply affected with the horror of a *ſuppoſed* diſeaſe, that words will ſcarcely deſcribe his diſtreſs. He called it a *dry pox*, and would confuſedly and inceſſantly enumerate ſymptom after ſymptom, which had no ſolid foundation for their ſupport, till the tears trickled from his eyes. He firſt applied to a *nominal* doctor, for the cure of a *ſlight excoriation* under the *preputium.* During five months he took a large quantity of medicines, which ſometimes brought him to the verge of a *ſalivation.* I made a determined point of curing, if poſſible, this miſerable object; by forbidding totally the uſe of medicines, giving him full liberty to call on me as often as he choſe, and furthermore by way of giving him the fulleſt indulgence in the recital of his diſmal and tedious narration, he occaſionally dined with me; and although I had often refuted his groundleſs apprehenſions, it required *two years* to accompliſh that great work. But he now retains *mens ſana, in corpore ſano: mirum eſt!*

Another ſet of objects are equally as miſerable from a real cauſe of complaints. Some ſuffer from the negligence, or want of ſagacity in the ſurgeon, or wholly from their own miſconduct, having deceived themſelves as well as their ſurgeons: anxiouſly and daily pleading for the utmoſt exertion of ſkill towards a ſpeedy and certain cure, while they incautiouſly, and often willfully evade the means to obtain that end. If indeed they would generouſly charge their eventual ſufferings to their own account, and exculpate the ſurgeon, their omiſſions and follies would be rendered more tolerable; but whatever happens, whether it be a relapſe, a prolongation or failure of cure, or the falſe intimation of another ſurgeon, that all is not well, the fault never lies at their own door.

There are other caſes not uncommon; which lurk under the diſguiſe of other diſeaſes; as the *gout, rheumatiſm, ſcurvy, leproſy, conſumption,* or *diſorders called nervous:* or according to the uſual cant, are cauſed by *mercury* lying in their bones.

Under theſe circumſtances, it is not to be expected that patients can decide for themſelves: they therefore apply to phyſicians or ſurgeons, who are placed in the firſt rank of general practice, but whoſe opinion and treatment are not always conſiſtent with the real ſtate of their caſes. Many inſtances of this ſort verify the aſſertion.

There are yet another kind of patients, who have been perfectly well cured, not having the leaſt *real* ſymptom of the diſeaſe remaining, but who are ſo prepoſſeſſed with the difficulty, or great uncertainty of the *venereal* matter being totally ſubdued and expelled, that from an *accidental* pain in the *noſe, head, groin* or *other parts*, or from ſpontaneous pimples in the face or body, are reduced to a dejection of mind, capable of forming to themſelves the identity of a multitude of viſionary ſymptoms, which never had exiſtence in the *venereal* diſeaſe.

To cure perſons of this complexion, who in effect have, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, a *poxed mind*; requires more rhetorical eloquence and art of reaſoning than I believe, moſt men are endowed with. If they can be perſuaded by any *one* ſurgeon, to apply to no other, and to omit *all* medicines, till time alone can expoſe the fallacy of their doubts and falſe ideas, he will perform a taſk almoſt next to a miracle, and may affix an high eſtimation on the power of his oratory.

I lately knew a very good phyſician, and a learned and ſenſible man, who was on the point of matrimony. He had been ſeverely afflicted with a *confirmed pox*, and had taken more medicines, by his own account, than might have vanquiſhed his diſeaſe five times over; yet ſo great was the diffidence of his own judgment and others whom he had conſulted, that he became the victim of death; the mere effect of deep anxiety and his own preſcriptions.

I have diſcourſed with him for an hour at a time in many of his viſits. He would leave me to appearance with a tranquil mind and great ſpirits, fully convicted of his own tormenting miſapprehenſions, and reconciled to my advice: but ſoon after he had left me, would retire to his houſe, and give the utmoſt latitude to his agitated, and, I ſuppoſe, diſtracted mind.

*The following caſes will, I hope, ſerve in ſome meaſure, not only to illuſtrate the ſubject of my former narrative**; *but alſo to prove the ſalutary virtues, extraordinary power, and efficacy of my medicines.*

CASE I.

A Servant of his MAJESTY's houſhold was infected, according to his own account, with ſo many *chancres*, as almoſt covered the *penis*; and put him in fear of loſing it. He applyed to an apothecary, and in two months a *bubo* appeared in the groin, which was diſcuſſed, and ſome time after returned. For theſe complaints he took medicines nine months, and was then ſeized with giddineſs and ſickneſs; loſt his appetite and fleſh; and ſoon became afflicted with nocturnal pains in the thighs, knees and legs; an eruption over the whole body, and an ulcer in the throat. In this ſituation he was under the care of an eminent phyſician, who preſcribed medicines for him one year, and then, believing him to be in a conſumption, declared that, in his opinion, neither he or any other man could cure him.

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* Salivation not neceſſary, &c.

In March 1769, he walked with the greateſt difficulty to my houſe; informed me that he had not been able to do his duty ſince May, 1768, and could not eat or ſleep with any comfort, on account of the intolerable pains which he ſuffered in his legs. He was much emaciated, had a large node on each ſhin bone, and an ulcer in his throat, which occaſioned his breath to be extremely offenſive to himſelf.

It is a vulgar adage, that *faith in the doctor is half the cure*; be that as it may, my promiſe of a ſpeedy cure raiſed his drooping ſpirits.

I directly gave him my medicines, which relieved him in a week; ſo much that he could ſleep comfortably, and his appetite prompted him to be his own cook.

At the end of three weeks he began to do his duty, but leſt he ſhould take cold, I adviſed him to avoid all buſineſs till *May*; when he went to *Richmond*, performed his uſual buſineſs, was perfectly cured, and remains well to this day; which the officers of his Majeſty's meuſe are ready to teſtify.

CASE II.

A Poor farmer, in June, 1768, contracted a *clap* and a *chancre,* and at the end of three weeks, a *bubo* formed in the groin, which diſcharged itſelf for ſome weeks, and healed without any application; then he applied to the following gentlemen.

1ſt, A *ſurgeon,* under whoſe care he continued three weeks.

2dly, *Another ſurgeon,* who cured the *clap* and *chancre,* by rubbing in *mercurial ointment* and giving him medicines two months. During this treatment, three *ulcers* appeared, one on the eyelid and one on each ſide of the neck, then,

3dly, A *chymiſt,* who thinking him paſt recovery, adviſed him to go to, 4thly, A *phyſician,* who ordered him to bath every night in warm water, which he performed ten times, but on account of his great weakneſs, put himſelf,

5thly, Under the care of *two ſurgeons;* having then nocturnal pains in the head and limbs, and a fever. They bled him three times, gave him medicines ten days, ordered him to rub *mercurial ointment* twice on his ſhins, and then directed him to go,

6thly, For the advice of ſome *hoſpital ſurgeons.*

He obeyed their order and was admitted into an hoſpital; where he remained four months, taking medicines, and uſing *mercurial ointment* about ten times. The *ulcer* in his throat was cured, but his pains remained, and he was otherwiſe ſo ill with a fever, and ſo much reduced, that for the benefit of better air, and to eſcape death, he was diſcharged from the *hoſpital,* and conveyed to his own houſe, in *Spital Fields.*

His landlord and another gentleman being informed of his diſtreſs, made me a viſit, and, at their deſire, I went along with them to ſee this poor object, in June, 1769.

He then ſuffered continual pains in the head and limbs, the ulcer in his throat was returned, his ankles and one knee were much ſwelled, and he had an hectic fever in an high degree; ſo much emaciated, that he *really* appeared to be nothing more than ſkin and bone; had been confined to his bed from the fourth day after his diſcharge from the hoſpital, and when I ſaw him, he had not ſtrength to riſe without aſſiſtance.

I had no proſpect to imagine that I could even *relieve* this miſerable man, notwithſtanding, I gave him my medicines: however, in one week he aroſe from his bed, went down ſtairs, remained up four hours, increaſed daily in ſpirits, ſtrength and appetite; in three weeks walked to make a viſit to his landlord, in *Cheapſide*, and in three more walked to *Parliament Street*, to fetch his medicines, and convince me of his ſurpriſing recovery. In a few months he was perfectly cured, and remains well to this day.

The gentlemen who employed me, generouſly paid for his cure, and will atteſt the truth of it.

CASE III.

A Reputable tradeſman in the city of London contracted a *chancre*, applied to a ſurgeon, and in ſix weeks, to appearance, was well. Three months afterwards he was ſeized with pains in his head and back, and again conſulted the ſame ſurgeon, who imagined his diſorder was *rheumatic*, and gave him ſome medicines; but the pains continuing, he adviſed with different gentlemen.

1ſt, A very *eminent phyſician*, who took the caſe for a *rheumatic gout*, and preſcribed accordingly. No benefit accruing from taking medicines nine months, he was ordered into the country.

2dly, *Another phyſician*, who declared that the former phyſician's preſcriptions were foreign to the caſe; preſcribed for him four months without effect, and then recommended country air and kitchen phyſic.

3dly, An *eminent hoſpital ſurgeon*; the patient ſuſpecting the diſeaſe to be *venereal.*

nereal. However the former diſſenting in opinion, adviſed retirement *only* into the country for a time.

4thly, A *foreign ſurgeon*, who ſaid it was the *gout*, and gave him medicines for that diſeaſe four months; when he became worſe inſtead of better.

5thly, An *Italian doctor*, who attended and gave him medicines ſix months. Being then in ſo bad a ſtate, that he himſelf and his friends deſpaired of his life, a gentleman of his acquaintance, deſired me to viſit him. Having more buſineſs than I could eaſily manage, I requeſted that he would come in a coach or ſedan, to my houſe, but his friends aſſuring me that he could not poſſibly comply with my requeſt, I therefore waited on him, and beheld a moſt miſerable object, in the greateſt deſpair imaginable; having endured confinement two years from his buſineſs, by a painful diſeaſe, with the threatning proſpect of inevitable death;

He was amazingly emaciated, had *thirty nine ulcers* in his legs, and his pains were ſo exceſſive, that he was almoſt a ſtranger to food and ſleep; he could not ſuffer his legs to hang down, but, as he dreaded the warmth of the bed, commonly layed upon it almoſt all the day; and till four in the morning, before he could repoſe a few hours in it:

At my departure, he begged to know when I intended to ſee him again; I replied, *never more there,* becauſe I expected he would viſit me in Parliament-ſtreet, in a month, and that I ſhould ſoon reſtore him to perfect health.

He commenced taking my *antivenereal* medicines, and on the *nineteenth* day made me a viſit, to convince me that all the ulcers were healed, except two, about the ſize of a ſilver three pence; he loſt his pains; ſoon after returned to buſineſs; has remained well ever ſince, being more than three years; and is now grown fat.

He will recite his caſe, to any enquiring fellow-ſufferer, or any gentleman who will go to him with a line in my name.

CASE IV.

In *July*, 1768,

A Young tradeſman contracted a *clap*; at the end of five weeks, four *chancres* appeared on the *penis*, and in *November* a *bubo* in the groin began to form. He applied to a ſurgeon during that time, took medicines, uſed *mercurial ointment* and the warm bath, and went into the country, but was obliged to return in fourteen days on account of the ſuppuration of the *bubo,* which was laid open, and then he was *ſalivated ſix weeks:* after which, not being ſo well as he expected, another eminent ſurgeon was conſulted, who, obſerving that he had taken and uſed too much *mercurial* medicine and ointment, directed the uſe of the *bark,* which he continued to take ſix months.

In *June,* 1769, he applied to me; emaciated, dejected, weak and feveriſh. On perceiving a ſmall ulcer in *ſcroto,* the *bubo* not cicatrized, and ſmall abſceſſes forming in different parts of the body and limbs, I ſuſpected that the *venereal* matter was not totally exhauſted, and therefore gave him my *antivenereal* medicines, which did not procure the deſired effect; for inſtead of the fever vaniſhing, as it has often happened in venereal caſes, it rather increaſed ; the appetite did not mend ; the ſtrength became more impaired ; the ulcer in *ſcroto* did not heal ; the abſceſſes increaſed in number, and were ſoon ſucceeded by more than *an hundred ulcerous eruptions* from the hips to the ankles. Concluding from theſe circumſtances, that the texture of the blood was almoſt deſtroyed, and that the habit of body was reduced to that ſtate, which is commonly termed *ſcorbutic*, I directly put him under a courſe of my *antiſcorbutic* medicines. In a fortnight the good effects of them were manifeſt : his ſpirits, ſtrength and appetite returned, and every ſymptom bore the appearance of a recovery, but the weather proving unfavourable, he took cold, and a fever ſeized him violently, which I feared would have deſtroyed him ; he happily eſcaped, and I repeated my medicines till he was perfectly recovered, and he is now ready to atteſt the truth of this narration.

Thus have I preſented to your view my *new* thoughts, &c. and yet after all I have ſaid and done, I muſt candidly confeſs, that I am too often, but juſtly reminded of the incapacity of man to attain to PERFECTION.

Having exceeded the limits of a letter, and tried your patience, I ſhall only add, that if the ballance ſhould turn in my favour, by affording you the ſmalleſt ſatiſfaction, in the peruſal of theſe ſheets, it will give no ſmall pleaſure to him, who is with the utmoſt deference and eſteem,

SIR,

your moſt obliged, and

moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Parliament-ſtreet,
June 25, 1770.

CHARLES HALES.